estimates of Registrar General of India, as on 1.3.2000 or the number of families actually identified and ration card issued by each State/UT, whichever is less. The annual allocation to Uttarakhand under BPL (including AAY) category is 2.09 lakh tons of foodgrains - wheat and rice as per the above norms and there has been no reduction in the above allocations during the last two years.

However, allocations of foodgrains for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families are made depending upon availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

Keeping in view the declining stock position of wheat and rice in the Central Pool, a uniform decision has been taken to rationalize wheat and rice allocations from the Central Pool stocks of the APL category under the TPDS which has been implemented *w.e.f.* June, 2006 and April, 2007 respectively, by linking them to the offtake figures of the past three years *i.e.* 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06. Further, in view the constraints on availability of rice and wheat in the Central Pool due to lower procurement during 2006-07 and 2007-08 than overall demands from States/UTs, monthly allocations of 5090 tons of rice and wheat have been made to Uttarakhand for APL category during 2008-09. Besides this, adhoc additional allocation of 92,000 tons of APL wheat has also been made to the State.

The details of the quantities of wheat, sugar and kerosene oil allocated to the State of Uttarakhand during the last three years are as follows:

(In thousand tons)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total allocation of Wheat under TPDS	209.741	143.302	121.641
Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Allocation of Sugar	73.03	72.81	73.28
Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
PDS SKO allocated	89.849	89.849	89.849

Price of imported wheat

43. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as reported in the US Press during May, 2007, the free on board price of wheat was around U.S. $119 per tonne;

(b) if so, how it could go upto $ 345 per tonne in October, 2007;

(c) whether there were any middlemen playing between the buyer and seller; and

(d) whether the deal was cautiously done or whether there was something wrong, somewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The price quoted on Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT)) acts as a reference point for wheat price on global level. The price of wheat quoted on CBOT fluctuates almost on a daily basis due to market forces. The Price quoted in

Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) during May 2007 varied from US $ 172.33 to US$ 189.97 per MT and during October 2007 from US $ 293.95 to US $ 349.98 per MT.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The import of wheat was done cautiously through Government of India undertakings namely STC, MMTC and PEC who floated global tenders and finalized purchase as per the established procedures.

Price fall of essential items

†44. DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of 30 items of daily consumption for common man has decreased enormously from August, 2008 to January, 2009;

(b) if so, the precentage of fall in prices; and

(c) the percentage of price fall of wheat, pulses, milk, fruits, vegetables and rice separately in the cities of first, second, third and fourth category in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Retail Price Index Numbers in respect of 31 Essential Commodities on the basis of price data collected from the 78 important industrial centres under Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base 2001-100 for August, 2008 and December, 2008 are given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below). These indicate a mixed trend. Retail Price Index in respect of 31 essential commodities for January, 2009 has not yet been compiled.

(c) Labour Bureau has not made any categorization of 78 centres as cities of first, second, third and fourth categories. However, the change in group/sub-group indices in December, 2008 over August, 2008 under Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base 2001-100 is given in statement-II.

Item-wise percentage increase/decrease in retail price indices of 31 essential commodities in December, 2008 over August, 2008

	Items Index During August,	Items Index During December,	% variation Dec.08/Aug.08
Commodities	2008	2008	
1	2	3	4
Rice	149.96	151.6	1.09
Wheat (Whole)	161.46	156.85	-2.86
Wheat (Atta)	160.35	161.5	0.72
Bajra	151.63	158.58	4.58
Jowar	220.99	202.87	-8.20
Arhar Dal	175.73	183.7	4.54
Gram Dal	144.46	139.4	-3.50

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.